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PAGE 01 STATE 110049 261740Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110049

FOR AMB. SPIEGEL FROM JOHN SHATTUCK

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: RW, EAID, AEMR, PREL, PHUM

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST
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PAGE 02 STATE 110049 261740Z
MONIQUE MUJAWAMARIYA

REF: GENEVA 3795

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT. ACTION REQUEST IS AT
PARAGRAPH 5.

2. SUMMARY: MONIQUE MUJAWAMARIYA, A HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST
FROM RWANDA, AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM HUMAN RIGHTS
WATCH MET WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS A/S

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JOHN SHATTUCK ON FRIDAY. APRIL 22. MS. MUJAAMARIYA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DEPARTURE OF U.N. FORCES FROM RWANDA. SHE SOUGHT U.S. SUPPORT IN URGING THE U.N. TO MAKE A DETERMINATION THAT THE ACTIONS TAKING PLACE IN RWANDA CONSTITUTE GENOCIDE AND EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO HAVE JACQUES-ROGER BOOH-BOOH REPLACED AS MEDIATOR OF THE CONFLICT. THE GROUP MADE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO STOP THE FIGHTING IN RWANDA, INCLUDING REQUESTING U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, JOSE AYALA LASSO, TO PUBLICLY HIGHLIGHT EVENTS TAKING PLACE THERE. AMB. SPIEGEL IS REQUESTED TO RAISE WITH AYALA LASSO THE

POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN RWANDA. END SUMMARY

3. DURING THE MEETING WITH A/S SHATTUCK, MS. MUJAWAMARIYA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DEPARTURE OF U.N. FORCES. SHE BELIEVES THAT THERE WILL BE EVEN MORE KILLING SHOULD THAT APPEN. GIVEN THE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS WHO HAVE ALREADY DIED IN THE FIGHTING, THE GROUP ASKED A/S SHATTUCK WHAT THE CHANCES MIGHT BE OF GETTING THE U.N. TO LABEL THE
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PAGE 03 STATE 110049 261740Z
EVENTS IN RWANDA AS GENOCIDE SO THAT THERE MIGHT BE A GREATER CALL TO ACCOUNTING FOR THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE. A/S SHATTUCK WAS NOT HOPEFUL THAT THIS WOULD OCCUR.

4. ANOTHER CONCERN RAISED BY THE GROUP WAS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE U.N. MEDIATOR, JACQUES-ROGER BOOH-BOOH. THEY BELIEVE BOOH-BOOH SHOULD BE REPLACED, AS HE HAS COMPROMISED HIS POSITION AND IS TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN OPENLY FRATERNIZING. HOWEVER, AFTER THE HASTY DEPARTURE OF THE MEDIATION TEAM THAT HAD INITIALLY TRAVELED TO RWANDA TO TRY AND WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT, FINDING A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT FOR BOOH-BOOH MIGHT BE DIFFICULT.

5. A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS WERE OFFERED DURING THE MEETING ON WAYS TO STOP THE KILLING IN RWANDA INCLUDING CONVENING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (UNHRC) AND THE POSSIBILITY OF JOSE AYALA LASSO, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLICLY HIGHLIGHTING THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN RWANDA IN AN EFFORT TO EXERT SOME INFLUENCE ON THE WARRING PARTIES

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6. COMMENT: THE UNHRC IS NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT THE COURSE OF THE FIGHTING IN RWANDA AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF AYALA LASSO'S INTEREST IN BECOMING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, INCLUDING THOSE IN RWANDA (SEE REFTTEL), IT WOULD BE WORTH PURSUING THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS SPEAKING OUT PUBLICLY ON THE NEED TO END THE KILLINGS AND NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TOWARD ESTABLISHING A NEW GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT

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PAGE 04 STATE 110049 261740Z

7. ACTION REQUEST: AMB. SPIEGEL IS REQUESTED, AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, TO URGE HIGH COMMISSIONER AYALA LASSO TO SPEAK OUT ON THE SITUATION IN RWANDA. TALBOTT

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